

Document No. 008

NO APPROVED FOR RELEASE 1999/09/24 : CIA-RDP82-00457R000300770008-0

☐ DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S (C)

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763

Date: 29 March 1978 By: 027

SECRET  
CONTROL~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

25X1A2a

U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Spain

DATE: 25X1A6a

INFO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Activities and Opinions of Republican Military  
Men in Spain

DIST. 27 February 1947

PAGES 3

SUPPLEMENT

25X1A6a

ORIGIN

25X1X6

Below is information of early to mid-January 1947 on the activities and opinions of republican military men in Madrid. Apparently, efforts are being made to achieve agreement among the republican professional military men and to place them under a single command. It will be recalled that during the winter of 1945-46, a group called the Junta Militar was established, which had as its aim the organizing of republican military men under the Defense Ministry of the Spanish Republican Government-in-Exile. (For previously distributed information on this body, see [REDACTED] 25X1A2g

25X1A2g

So far as is known, efforts to re-form the central committee of the Junta Militar, after the arrest of most of its leaders in March 1946, were unsuccessful, and the military men formed groups around such men as Lt. Colonel Miguel Palacios and General Manuel Matallana Gomez. Reportedly, Palacios' group maintains contact with the Alianza Nacional de Fuerzas Democraticas, and Palacios himself shares the opinions of the ANFD leaders who advocate collaboration with the monarchists toward the establishment of a transition government. Matallana, on the other hand, maintains an intransigently republican position, considering that only a republic legally can follow the present regime. From the information which follows, it would appear that no agreement will be reached in the near future among the military men. While the report in this sense may be described as inconclusive, it is believed that it will be of interest.

Offer of the Interior Military Men to the Exile Government

1. In early January, Palacios stated that various outstanding republican military men had conferred and had agreed to place themselves, from a professional and technical viewpoint, at the orders of the Defense Ministry of the Spanish Republican Government-in-Exile.\* Among the Republican Army men who had agreed to the proposal were Garcia Vallejo,

25X1A6a

Comment: Since this report was written, Julio Just has been named Minister of Interior and Defense in the republican exile government, now headed by Rodolfo Llopis. General Juan Hernandez Sarabia was Defense Minister in Jose Giral's cabinet.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONTROL U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1A9a

CLASSIFICATION				SECRET				CONTROL U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY				OIR	
ADSO	x	A DEP.	x	FBT		SPDE	VTO						
DADSO		FBK	x	FBV		SPDS	B DEP.			25X1A9a			
KEC.						SCS							
CONTROL				FBZ		SCO							
TRANS	x	FBP		SPDA	x	TRB							

Approved For Release 1999/09/24 : CIA-RDP82-00457R000300770008-0

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

-2-

Muniz Prunes, Callego Calatayud, Fernando Casado and Major Castello. According to Palacios, the military men recommended that a general staff be organized inside Spain with cadres for the different sections. They considered it most important that an intelligence section be established. They further recommended that the head of the interior organization be appointed by the Defense Minister, from a list of persons submitted to him by republican military men of the interior.

2. According to Palacios, the consensus was that the most suitable man to head this military organization in Spain was General Matallana, in view of his prestige, his rank and his professional ability.\*

#### Opinions of Matallana

3. Source doubted that Matallana would accept the post suggested for him, since the general has characterized Palacios and his followers as "Aliancista collaborators" and has not been disposed to have anything to do with them, despite repeated overtures on the part of Palacios and Muniz Prunes to secure his cooperation. Source states that, in Matallana's opinion, it is entirely possible that in the past Palacios' military group might even have reached an understanding with a high-ranking officer of the present regime, and might be under his orders at present.
4. During late December, Muniz Prunes tried to secure Matallana's cooperation for the formation of republican cadres, but the general was not responsive. He stated to a reliable informant that he distrusted the military men who were connected with the ANFD, that he considered the members of the Republican parties who form part of the coalition as deserters, and that he was skeptical of the republicanism of the Socialists and Genetistas in the organization.
5. Matallana also conferred with the Genetista, Cipriano Mera, who during the Civil War was Political Commissar of the Fifth Army Corps, under the orders of Palacios. Matallana thinks well of Mera, and hoped to learn through him the real position of the CNT. The general urged Mera to do what he could to keep the CNT in the sphere of absolute republicanism and added that in his opinion the monarchists were deceiving the CNT and exploiting the anti-communist phobia of the Confederation to their own advantage.

#### Palacios' Statements on the Monarchists

6. Source states that despite Palacios' decision to offer to place himself and his group at the disposition of the Spanish Republican Government-in-Exile in a military sense, he still believes that an understanding must be

The following notes on General Matallana, while fragmentary, may be of interest. The material was received from a reliable source in Madrid and is based on the statements of various sub-sources: General Matallana attended the Infantry Academy of Toledo. He also has a law degree, and at present is employed as legal advisor by a construction company. At the beginning of the Spanish Civil War, he was aide to General Miaja. Later, he assumed the post left vacant by General Rojo on the General Staff of the Army of the Center, when Rojo became Chief of the Central General Staff. He took part in the battle of Brunete and later in the withdrawal of the Army of the Levante. He led the battle of Extremadura. When the Civil War ended, he was Chief of the Army of the Levante. Two informants state that after his trial by the Nationalists, Matallana was saved from execution by the intervention of Franco Salgado, first cousin of the Generalissimo.

SECRET CONTROL  
U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

25X1A2g

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

-5-

reached between the monarchists and the leftists inside Spain. The following opinions expressed by Palacios on the monarchists may be of interest in that they are indicative of his political thinking. In Palacios' estimation, the monarchists may be divided into three groups: Those who share the opinions of Sainz Rodriguez, who are opportunists and desirous of regaining the privileges which they enjoyed previously and under the monarchy; the followers of Gil Robles, who are "Vaticanistas" and are willing to go along with either a monarchy or a republic; and those who adhere only to Don Juan. According to Palacios, the first group has very little strength, the second, represented in Spain by Jiminiano Carrascal, is losing ground, while the third, headed by Yanguas Mesias and counting among its members many persons of outstanding ability and prestige, enjoys great esteem.

7. It is the last group, according to Palacios, which is endeavoring to reach an accord with the Alianza Nacional de Fuerzas Democraticas. The ANFD, as representative of the leftists, looks to this group as a strong and liberal sector, although the organization considers that the defeat of the monarchy in a plebiscite is certain. As of 8 January, an agreement was under discussion, Palacios stated, between the ANFD and this monarchist group. He said that the monarchists and leftists think that Martinez Barrio should appoint a representative of the Republic to sign the pact when accord has been reached, and added that a request that such designation be made had been transmitted to Paris.
8. When source asked him whether or not he considered Martinez Barrio as representative of the continuity of the legitimately established regime, Palacios stated that, in his opinion, it was not clear whether by the elections of 1931 the people of Spain rejected the monarchy as a form of government, or merely rejected Alfonso XIII as king.

~~SECRET~~ CONTROL  
U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~